

VZCZCXRO8832
OO RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHNP RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHSF #0180/01 1040624
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 140624Z APR 09
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5922
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 SOFIA 000180

SIPDIS

FOR SPECIAL ENVOY FOR EURASIAN ENERGY RICHARD MORNINGSTAR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/07/2019

TAGS: [ENRG](#) [ECON](#) [PREL](#) [PCOV](#) [BU](#)

SUBJECT: BULGARIA'S ENERGY DEBUT: GETTING WHAT WE WANT AT SOFIA'S NATURAL GAS SUMMIT

REF: SOFIA 0109

Classified By: CDA Alex Karagiannis for reason 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: The April 24-25 Sofia Energy Summit is many things to many people. Bulgaria's ostensible goal is to improve Europe's outreach

TIMING

[1](#)2. (C) Your visit to Sofia comes as Bulgaria attempts to bill itself as an emerging European energy center. With six active or potential oil a

[1](#)3. (C) But there are also increasing signs that Bulgaria's long-term trust in Russia as a partner and supplier is waning. Bulgaria was hard hi

THE SUMMIT

[1](#)4. (C) The April 24-25 Sofia Energy Summit is Bulgaria's attempt to put Sofia on the map not only as an energy center, but as a place that br

[1](#)5. (C) The January gas crisis gave the long-planned summit new relevance. We've repeatedly told the Bulgarians that the success or failure of

[1](#)6. (C) The draft declaration otherwise hits all the right notes, including an emphasis on diversification, transparency, market orientation of

[1](#)7. (C) Comment: Bulgaria wants this summit to showcase its centrality for European energy security/diversity. The Bulgarians are acutely consc

MEETINGS WITH BULGARIAN OFFICIALS

[1](#)8. (C) The Sofia Summit will offer important bilateral meeting opportunities, which we will set up in coordination with your office. Among the

--President Georgi Parvanov began his second five-year-term in 2007. Parvanov's desire to exercise behind-the-scenes influence over the governm

--Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev is a 42-yr-old progressive Socialist. He is pro-west and eager to have Bulgaria viewed as a good friend and f

--Economy and Energy Minister Petar Dimitrov is a relative new-comer to energy issues. During his first year in office he was largely seen as t

--Foreign Minister Kalvin, whom you met in Washington, is close to both Stanishev and Parvanov and as Deputy Prime Minister oversees the Econon

BULGARIAN ENERGY PROJECTS

[1](#)9. (C) Bulgaria is pursuing a host of energy projects, including:

-- SOUTH STREAM: The Bulgarians were the first to sign an inter-governmental agreement (IGA) on South Stream, in January 2008. Since then, the

-- NABUCCO: Bulgaria is a full partner in Nabucco and the GOB has been careful to display strong public support for the project after taking cc

-- TGI HOOK-UP: The Bulgarian Government as made outreach to Central Asian and Caspian producers a priority. Their efforts resulted in "commitn

-- OTHER DIVERSIFICATION PROJECTS: Since the January gas crisis, diversification has been the watchword for Bulgaria. During the Sofia Summit t

-- BURGAS-ALEXANDROUPOLIS (BAP) and AMBO: The Bulgarians, Russians and Greeks signed a shareholders agreement for the BAP oil pipeline in Janua

-- BELENE: In 2006, Bulgaria selected Russian AtomstroyExport as the contractor for the new Belene nuclear power plant. Bulgaria is keeping maj

-- KOZLUUDUY 7 and 8: As rumors of Belene's troubles multiply, the Bulgarian Minister of Energy Petar Dimitrov and others have resurrected the i

Karagiannis